

MOOKINI HEIAU

Northern tip of Hawaii, Hawi vicinity

This massive platform with its open stone-paved court was a temple of the rulers—a state temple, or *luakini*, where human sacrifices were performed. It is one of the most important traditional sites in Hawaii because of its association with the legendary Polynesian priest Pa'ao, who is believed to have introduced new religious and social concepts to the islands ca. A. D. 1370. The landmark, a unit of Kohala Historical Sites State Monument, also contains the nearby birthplace of King Kamehameha I, who founded the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1795.